



# *BudgetUtah*

## The Utah Budget Game

### Fiscal Year 2000

<http://www.governor.state.ut.us/budget/FY2000>

## General Instructions

### What is this

#### *This game is like real life budgeting:*

- You start in the hole: more requests and needs than you have money for.  
We started with a half billion dollars in requests with \$200 million to meet them  
The game has about 50 variables – we deal with hundreds
- Outside forces will sometimes throw you out of balance  
For example: Congress balanced its budget by cutting the Social Services Block Grant
- You don't have enough time
- Lobbyists are always popping up
- You sometimes learn about needs from news reports
- There are no easy answers
- The media is always there to "reflect" on your decisions

#### *This game is Not like real life budgeting:*

- Some expenditure requests have been simplified, consolidated, or otherwise changed for demonstration purposes
- Revenues are over simplified
- Changing tax collections have more than just revenue impacts: social, political, etc.
- One-time vs. ongoing money. Some of the revenue is not recurring, so it should not be spent on ongoing items.
- Statutory formulas. State law requires certain amounts of funding in some areas
- Match rates and maintenance of effort requirements for federal funds. For some programs, a state match of spending is required to get the federal dollars.
- Restrictions on where certain funds can be spent. For example, school funds (primarily income taxes) can only be spent for public and higher education.

#### Start:

Be sure to enter your last name at the first screen.

#### Objective:

Balance the budget by changing revenues and expenditures.

#### Description:

##### Revenues

Change how much money you have to play with by clicking the arrow keys. The up arrow increases your money. The down arrow decreases your money. The changes you make represent changes in the amount or revenue collected, not changes in actual tax rates.

##### Expenditures

Change compensation and funding for Public Education on the "WPU and Salary Changes" page. The game starts with increasing salaries and Public Education funding by 2.5%.

Change amounts for other items on the "Other Expenditures" page.

##### Progress

Check how close you are to balancing the budget by looking at the "Balance" figure at the bottom of the screen.

Find out where your money is going by clicking "Display Use Chart."

##### Help

Each revenue source and expenditure displays a brief description and analysis on the right side of the screen.

For a hint on what to do, click the "Advice from Governor Leavitt" button. To see Governor Leavitt's recommendation, scroll down past the advice.

##### Finishing Up

When you're ready, find out what the Standard Deseret Tribune has to say about your budget by clicking "Review the Paper."

View and print your budget by clicking "Budget Summary."

End the game by clicking "Exit."

